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views, but Dr. Taylor has made an important contribution to legal literature and has rendered a distinct service to the student in combining the essentials of his subject within a single volume, and at the same time by reference, making the volume a key to the works of the modern jurists. The parts relating to the origin of our Constitution, the typical state-law system, and the modern *jus gentium*, are highly suggestive and merit a more extended notice than our limits will admit. The book is cordially commended to students of jurisprudence.

E. B. G.

Mining Law and Land Office Procedure. By Theodore Martin. San Francisco. Bender-Moss Co. 1908. pp. lxiv, 980.

This is a book that has no very satisfactory excuse for its publication. The only excuse given by the author is that no other text-book on the subject has been published during the last five years, except two somewhat different in character from the one now published. He says that this is a rapid age, and that during the said five years, "the new Secretary of the Interior, Hon. James A. Garfield (*sic*), has approved quite a number of modifications in the rulings and regulations of the general land office;" also that "the appellate courts have decided and passed upon some questions."

Perhaps a good book needs no excuse, even though the field is already filled with other good books. This book does need one. It certainly contains almost nothing that cannot be found in more satisfactory form in other books. The English is often inexcusably bad. It is awkward, full of unnecessary repetition, and in places is absolutely opaque. See Sect. 41. The efforts made at definition are often painful, as for example the definition of the terms "vein" and "lode," in Sects. 55-61. The definitions there given fill several pages with vain and ill-constructed repetition, quite useless to aid a court or a lawyer.

It may be, indeed, that a practising lawyer would find this work of sufficient use to justify its purchase, at least if he is not already supplied with a better book. The simpler principles of the mineral land law seem, in general, to be correctly stated. There is not, however, as much of original matter in the book as might be expected. Of the 980 pages the author's text fills only 320. The collection of statutes and land office rules fills 386 pages; 116 pages are given to forms; and the index requires 158 pages.

Somewhat fewer than 800 cases are cited. The collection of statutes and rules is doubtless as useful as other similar collections. The forms too, may be of some use, though other forms are already easily obtainable; but one is inclined to doubt the usefulness of a forfeiture notice that begins: "You are hereby notified and will take notice." See page 768. *A. L. C.*